

Good evening, my name is Brandi Yee, and I am the Chief Program Officer at ACT for Alexandria, the city's community foundation. At ACT, we amplify the work of the community by bringing people and resources together.

I would like to start by thanking the City Manager, City staff, the Mayor, and members of City Council for listening to and incorporating feedback from nonprofit partners throughout this budget process. We are grateful to see many of these priorities reflected in the FY27 budget, including investments that recognize the critical role nonprofits play in supporting Alexandria residents and strengthening economic mobility and well-being as the City continues to invest in economic development and growth.

Alexandria is feeling the effects of a changing landscape—from layoffs in the federal workforce to rising costs of living. At the same time, changes in federal policies may mean more residents become ineligible for programs like SNAP or face new work requirements tied to Medicaid. When that happens, the pressure on the local safety net increases.

Alexandria's nonprofits are often the first-place neighbors turn when they need help with housing, food, childcare, healthcare, or navigating a difficult moment. They are on the front lines responding to these gaps, which is why maintaining a strong safety net is so important.

We appreciate the City's investment in the nonprofit sector through the Alexandria Fund for Human Services and the proposed increase in funding for survival services. We also encourage continued attention to keeping these investments in line with inflation. As we shared previously, funding that was \$1.9 million several years ago would need to be about \$2.7 million today to have the same impact. Ensuring these resources keep pace with rising costs helps equip nonprofits to respond to evolving community needs.

ACT is proud to partner with the City and with nonprofits across Alexandria to strengthen this ecosystem of care because we know investing in our city's residents is critical to Alexandria's growth and prosperity. We are grateful for your trust and investment in ACT, which allows us to mobilize additional philanthropic resources and support nonprofit organizations doing critical work every day in our community.

Thank you for your leadership and continued partnership as we work together to ensure Alexandria is a just, vibrant, and equitable place where all who live and work here can thrive and feel they belong.